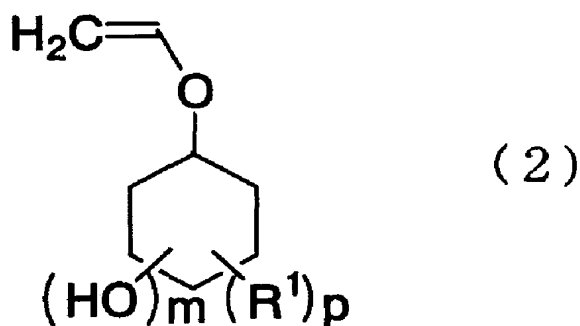


Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

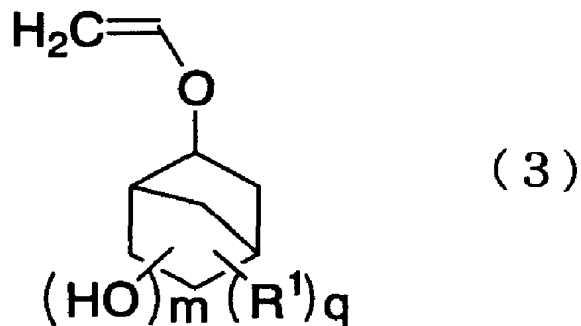
1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A fluorine-containing vinyl ether ~~according to claim 1~~, which is represented by the formula 2,



where R^1 is at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of $-F$, $-CF_3$, and $-R^2C(CF_3)_2OR^3$, where R^2 is CH_2 or C_2H_4 , and R^3 is H or an acid-labile protecting group, and

p is an integer of 1-5, and m is 0 or 1.

4. (Currently Amended) A fluorine-containing vinyl ether ~~according to claim 1~~, which is represented by the formula 3,

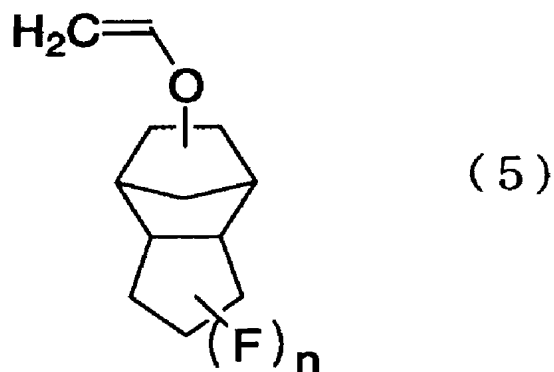


where R^1 is at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of $-F$, $-CF_3$, and $-R^2C(CF_3)_2OR^3$, where R^2 is CH_2 or C_2H_4 , and R^3 is H or an acid-labile protecting group, and

q is an integer of 1-4, and m is 0 or 1.

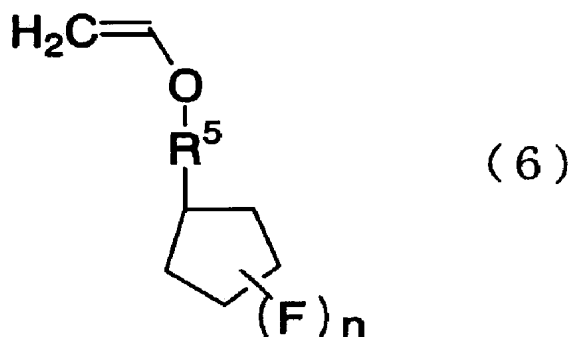
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A fluorine-containing vinyl ether ~~according to claim 1,~~ which is represented by the formula 5,



where n is an integer of 1-8.

7. (Currently Amended) A fluorine-containing vinyl ether ~~according to claim 1,~~ which is represented by the formula 6,



where R^5 is a C_0 - C_5 alkyl group, and n is an integer of 1-8.

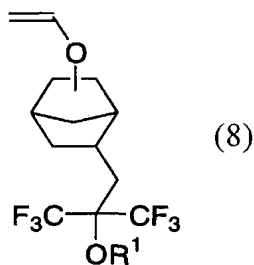
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A fluorine-containing polymer comprising a unit derived from a fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to claim [[1]] 3.

11. (Original) A resist composition comprising a fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 10.

12. (Original) A fluorine-containing copolymer comprising:
a first unit derived from a first monomer that is a fluorine-containing vinyl ether represented by the formula 8:

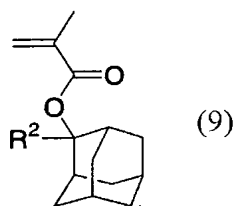


where R¹ is -H or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group that optionally contains an oxygen atom;
and

a second unit derived from a second monomer that is at least one selected from the group consisting of acrylic esters and methacrylic esters.

13. (Original) A fluorine-containing copolymer according to claim 12, wherein the second monomer contains an acid-labile protecting group.

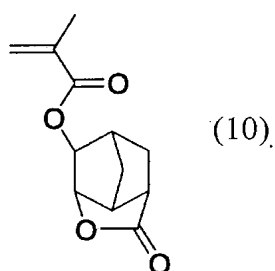
14. (Previously Presented) A fluorine-containing copolymer according to claim 12, wherein the second monomer is a first methacrylic ester represented by the general formula 9:



where R^2 is $-\text{CH}_3$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

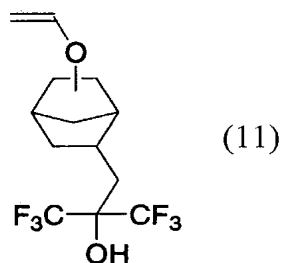
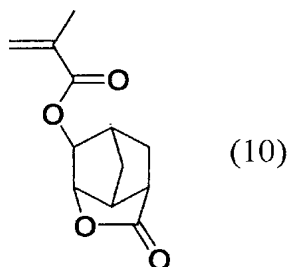
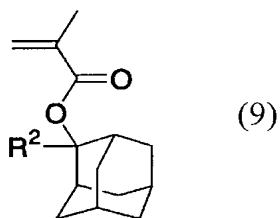
15. (Original) A fluorine-containing copolymer according to claim 12, wherein the second monomer is an acrylic or methacrylic ester comprising a lactone ring.

16. (Previously Presented) A fluorine-containing copolymer according to claim 12, wherein the second monomer is a second methacrylic ester represented by the formula 10:



17. (Original) A fluorine-containing copolymer according to claim 12, wherein the second monomer is a combination of first and second methacrylic esters represented by the formulas 9 and 10, and

wherein the fluorine-containing vinyl ether is represented by the formula 11,



where R² is -CH₃ or -CH₂CH₃.

18. (Previously Presented) A resist composition comprising a fluorine-containing copolymer according to claim 12.

19. (New) A fluorine-containing polymer comprising a unit derived from a fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to claim 4.

20. (New) A resist composition comprising a fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 19.

21. (New) A fluorine-containing polymer comprising a unit derived from a fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to claim 6.

22. (New) A resist composition comprising a fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 21.

23. (New) A fluorine-containing polymer comprising a unit derived from a fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to claim 7.

24. (New) A resist composition comprising a fluorine-containing polymer according to claim 23.